

Mid-Hudson Library System Board Meeting Director's Report May 2007

Budget Adjustments: With the extra \$3 million that the Governor included in his budget, and the additional \$5 million the legislature added, the total increase for Mid-Hudson Library System is \$190,000. Since none of this is permanent, our 2008 budget projection will not include that funding. The Finance Committee will meet and make recommendations to the full board in July of how these funds should be allocated.

Cold Spring: As expected, the town of Phillipstown moved to dismiss Article 78 demanding payment. The library's lawyer has filed a brief against that motion and the judge has 60 days to make a ruling.

Technology: We are planning the migration to a new Gigcat server for June 5-6. Senator Saland has obtained a member item for \$50,000 to support this project. This server should last five years.

CE: We are beginning another round of Trustee Essentials and Advanced Trustee training sessions. We encourage all new trustees to attend the Essentials workshop. Through the Central Library program, Sue Hermans has been conducting workshops around the System on tips and tricks for front line staff and Meribeth and Rebekkah have, through a Gates initiative, developed a workshop and Website, "Quick Ways to Get Great Answers". All of these workshops are part of our Plan of Service goal to improve the ability of library staff to provide good customer service.

Summer Reading: Margaret held two workshops in preparation for the Summer Reading programs that should be starting up in June. Assemblyman Cahill obtained a member item of \$20,000 for the libraries in his district (most of Ulster County and Rhinebeck and Rhinecliff) for summer reading activities.

Dutchess County Dinner: Congratulations to the Dutchess County Directors for their successful County Trustee Dinner held in Amenia with NYLA Director Michael Borges as the speaker. It was a nice event and I encourage every county to have a regular trustee event.

Growth Cycle: Attached is a draft of a scheme to help libraries assess where they are in terms of organizational development and where the next stage could be. This is an attempt to help libraries plan for growth by recognizing how changes will affect their organizational structure. Although we can discuss it at our meeting, please send any comments or suggestions directly to me.

Incentive Program: Four libraries have applied through the Incentive Program for funding to send a staff member to ALA. Under the guidelines, the maximum award was \$500, but the total amount allocated was \$4,000. Should we raise the maximum amount?

The list below includes documents & information that are to be placed in the permanent record. Board members may request copies of documents by contacting Peggy on ext. 16 pwinn@midhudson.org.

Member Memos:

- #07:-03: Online Giving Options
- #07-04: In-kind Services
- #07-05: Construction Needs Update
- #07-06: Board Meeting Schedule
- #07-07: Benefits, Salary and Leave Survey

Correspondence Received:

- Article from The Independent dated 3-13-2007 re: Library Lobby Day.
- Thank you note to Josh Cohen from Wendy Alexander, Director Rosendale Library, for his response to a patron's letter concerning designated library service areas and loan policies.

- Article from “The Independent” re: Wireless Internet at Columbia County Libraries.
- Thank you letter to Josh Cohen from library staff member, Erin Bohn, for the MLS Course Scholarship grants she has received.
- Thank you letter to Laurie Shedrick from Bruce George, Director of the Kingston Library, for the “excellent staff-training workshop” she conducted at the library.
- Article from The Independent re: Library Leg Day.
- April edition of the Poughkeepsie Journal’s “*On the Shelves*” contributed by Greg Callahan, director of the Hyde Park Free Library.
- Letter from Karen LaRocca-Fels, director Kent Public Library, to Josh Cohen praising the *Reaching Out to the Spanish Speaking Community* workshop presented by Rebekkah Smith Aldrich and Merribeth Advocate.
- Article from The Independent, dated 3/27 re: proposed state budget and library funding.
- Article from The Independent, dated 4/17 re: USA Patriot Act abuses in libraries.
- Thank you letter to Lena Smolon, Outreach and Education Assistant, from William Connolly, Superintendent, and Victor Gallo, Correction Counselor, at Fishkill Correctional Facility, for her attendance and participation in the facility’s 3rd annual job fair.

Other Reports:

- Staff Library Visits Report